

Bill title: Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2009

Bill number: [H.R. 1066](#)

Date introduced: February 13, 2009

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Summary: Peace Corps continues to be one of America's finest expressions of friendship and solidarity around the world and is an important element of America's soft power. Investing in Peace Corps enhances our credibility and moral standing abroad while exposing more cultures to the core American values of peace, progress, tolerance and prosperity.

When President Kennedy introduced the idea of Peace Corps to America, he was overwhelmed by the “immense reservoir of dedicated men and women willing to devote their energies and time and toil to the cause of the world peace and human progress.” The dedication President Kennedy acknowledged has not waned; in fact, we've recently seen an increased interest in Peace Corps (more than 13,000 applicants annually). And some 20 additional governments have requested American Peace Corps to work in their countries. However, insufficient funding has been the primary barrier to expanding the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps Expansion Act would allow for a responsible and phased growth of the Peace Corps. The legislation would authorize \$450 million dollars for fiscal year 2010, \$600 million for fiscal year 2011 and \$750 million for fiscal year 2012. Those levels would enable Congress to accomplish the goal of doubling the size of the Peace Corps.